

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Previously presented) A composite holding device, comprising:

a casing for accommodating a plurality of holders for holding media to serve either different or similar purposes;

supporting sections, each of which supports a corresponding holder and movable in an axial direction in the casing together with the holder;

a feed mechanism, provided in the casing, for selectively advancing one of the supporting sections; and

a manipulating mechanism for operating the feed mechanism, being adapted to project a tip of one of the plurality of holders out of a fore end opening at a tip of the casing and make usable the tip of one of the plurality of holders,

wherein each supporting section is adapted to support a section of each holder such that the supported section is adapted to be rotatably supported in relation to the supporting section,

wherein a spherical bearing is formed between said supporting section and the supported section provided on each of said holders, wherein said spherical bearing includes a spherical part formed on either one of said supporting section and the supported section provided on a holder and a concave part formed on the other one of said supporting section and supported section provided on the holder to receive said spherical part.

Claims 2-3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (Original) The composite holding device, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said

media are selected from a group of media consisting of writing-related media including a pencil lead, an ink, a stick glue, an eraser and a correctional fluid, cosmetic media including a lipstick, an eye pencil, an eyeliner and an eyebrow pencil, and data inputting media including a stylus tip.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) A writing tool comprising:

a cap into which the composite holding device set forth in claim 1 is built.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) A composite holding device, comprising:

a holder body for holding a first medium to serve a prescribed purpose

~~an external sleeve having a fore end receiving a portion of said holder body; and~~

a cap for detachably covering the holder body ~~received by a rear end of said external sleeve,~~

wherein the cap comprises:

a casing for accommodating a plurality of holders, each holder for holding a second medium to serve a purpose either different from or similar to that of said first medium;

a supporting section for supporting said holders to be movable in an axial direction in the casing;

a feed mechanism, provided in the casing, for selectively advancing one of the plurality of holders; and

a manipulating mechanism for operating the feed mechanism, being adapted to project a tip of one of the plurality of holders out of a fore end opening at a tip of the casing

and make usable the tip of one of the plurality of holders.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) The composite holding device, as set forth in claim 6, wherein the supporting section is adapted to support a section of each holder such that the supported section is adapted to be rotatably supported in relation to the supporting section.

Claim 8. (Original) The composite holding device, as set forth in claim 6, further comprising:

a spherical bearing formed between said supporting section and a supported section provided on each of said holders.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) The composite holding device, as set forth in claim 8, wherein said spherical bearing includes:

a spherical part formed on either one of said supporting section and said a supported section provided on said holders ~~a holder~~; and

a concave part formed on the other one of said supporting section and said supported section provided on the holder ~~folder~~ to receive said spherical part.

Claim 10. (Original) The composite holding device, as set forth in claim 6, wherein said media are selected out of a group of media consisting of writing-related media including a pencil lead, an ink, a stick glue, an eraser and a correctional fluid, cosmetic media including a lipstick, an eye pencil, an eyeliner and an eyebrow pencil, and data inputting media including media including a stylus tip.

Claim 11. (Currently amended) A composite holding device, comprising:

a casing for accommodating a plurality of holders for holding media to serve either different or similar purposes;

a supporting section for supporting said holders to be movable in an axial direction in the casing;

a feed mechanism, provided in the casing, for selectively advancing one of the plurality of holders; and

a manipulating mechanism for operating the feed mechanism, being adapted to project a tip of one of the plurality of holders out of a fore end opening at a tip of the casing and make usable the tip of one of the plurality of holders,

~~wherein the supporting section is adapted to support a section of each holder such that the supported section is adapted to be rotatably supported in relation to the supporting section;~~ wherein:

said casing comprises an external sleeve, an intermediate sleeve fitted inside the external sleeve with assistance of an ancillary sleeve, and a nose rotatable in relation to the external sleeve and the intermediate sleeve;

an internal thread is formed on an inner circumferential face of the intermediate sleeve and a slit is formed on an internally threaded part of the intermediate sleeve;

an external thread is formed on an outer circumferential face of the ancillary sleeve;

one of an externally threaded part of the ancillary sleeve and the internally threaded part of the intermediate sleeve has a tapered shape; and

the external thread of said ancillary sleeve inserted into the external sleeve and the intermediate sleeve engages the internal thread of the intermediate sleeve inserted into the

external sleeve, the slit of the intermediate sleeve being expanded to press the internally threaded part against an inner circumferential face of the external sleeve to fix the intermediate sleeve to the external sleeve, thereby to fit the intermediate sleeve inside the external sleeve.

Claim 12. (Original) The composite holding device, as set forth in claim 11, wherein a projection to be pressed against the inner circumferential face of the external sleeve is formed on an outer circumferential face of the internally threaded part of said intermediate sleeve.

Claim 13. (Original) The composite holding device, as set forth in claim 11, wherein one of an adhesive tape and an elastic member is positioned between the outer circumferential face of the internally threaded part of said intermediate sleeve and the inner circumferential face of the external sleeve.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) A composite holding device, comprising:

a casing for accommodating a plurality of holders for holding media to serve either different or similar purposes;

a supporting section for supporting said holders to be movable in an axial direction in the casing;

a feed mechanism, provided in the casing, for selectively advancing one of the plurality of holders; and

a manipulating mechanism for operating the feed mechanism, being adapted to project a tip of one of the plurality of holders out of a fore end opening at a tip of the casing and

make usable the tip of one of the plurality of holders,

~~wherein the supporting section is adapted to support a section of each holder such that the supported section is adapted to be rotatably supported in relation to the supporting section;~~ wherein:

said casing comprises an external sleeve, an intermediate sleeve fitted inside the external sleeve with assistance of an ancillary sleeve and an elastic ring, and a nose rotatable in relation to the external sleeve and the intermediate sleeve;

an internal thread is formed on either one of the intermediate sleeve and the ancillary sleeve, and an external thread to engage the internal thread is formed on the other one of the intermediate sleeve and the ancillary sleeve;

the intermediate sleeve and the elastic ring adjacent to the intermediate sleeve in the axial direction, are inserted into the external sleeve, the ancillary sleeve is inserted into the external sleeve from the elastic ring side, one of a part of the ancillary sleeve and a part of the intermediate sleeve penetrates the elastic ring, the threaded engagement of said external thread and internal thread with each other serves to combine the intermediate sleeve and the ancillary sleeve, and the elastic ring is compressed in the axial direction between the ancillary sleeve and the intermediate sleeve to be pressed against an inner circumferential face of the external sleeve and thereby to be fixed to the external sleeve, thereby resulting in the fitting of the intermediate sleeve inside the external sleeve.

Claim 15. (Original) The composite holding device, as set forth in claim 14, wherein a step face for coming into contact with said elastic ring is formed on said ancillary sleeve, and the step face is inclined in relation to the direction of the external diameter.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) A composite holding device, comprising:

a casing for accommodating a plurality of holders for holding media to serve either different or similar purposes;

a supporting section for supporting said holders to be movable in an axial direction in the casing;

a feed mechanism, provided in the casing, for selectively advancing one of the plurality of holders; and

a manipulating mechanism for operating the feed mechanism, being adapted to project a tip of one of the plurality of holders out of a fore end opening at a tip of the casing and make usable the tip of one of the plurality of holders,

~~wherein the supporting section is adapted to support a section of each holder such that the supported section is adapted to be rotatably supported in relation to the supporting section; wherein:~~

said casing comprises an external sleeve, and intermediate sleeve fitted inside the external sleeve with the assistance of an ancillary sleeve and a C-ring, and a nose rotatable in relation to the external sleeve and the intermediate sleeve;

an annular concave part is formed on an inner circumferential face of the external sleeve, and the C-ring is fitted into the annular concave part to project more in the direction of the internal diameter than the inner circumferential face of the external sleeve;

an internal thread is formed on either one of the intermediate sleeve and the ancillary sleeve, and an external thread to engage the internal thread is formed on the other one of the intermediate sleeve and the ancillary sleeve;

a part of the intermediate sleeve is inserted into the external sleeve from one end of

the external sleeve, and the other part of the intermediate sleeve not inserted into the external sleeve is brought into contact with the one end of the external sleeve; and

the ancillary sleeve is inserted into the external sleeve from the other end of the external sleeve, one of a part of the ancillary sleeve and a part of the intermediate sleeve penetrates the C-ring, the threaded engagement of said external thread with the internal thread serves to combine the intermediate sleeve and the ancillary sleeve, and the ancillary sleeve comes into contact with the part of the C-ring projecting more than the inner circumferential face of the external sleeve from the other end side of the external sleeve, thereby resulting in fitting the intermediate sleeve inside the external sleeve.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) A composite holding device, comprising:

a holder body for holding a medium to serve a prescribed purpose; and

a cap for detachably covering the holder body,

wherein the cap comprises:

a casing for accommodating a plurality of holders, each holder for holding a medium to serve a purpose either different from or similar to that of said medium;

a supporting section for supporting said holders to be movable in an axial direction in the casing;

a feed mechanism, provided in the casing, for selectively advancing one of the plurality of holders; and

a manipulating mechanism for operating the feed mechanism, being adapted to project a tip of one of the plurality of holders out of a fore end opening at a tip of the casing and make usable the tip of one of the plurality of holders, wherein:

said casing comprises an external sleeve, an intermediate sleeve fitted inside the external sleeve with the assistance of an ancillary sleeve, and a nose rotatable in relation to the external sleeve and the intermediate sleeve;

an internal thread is formed on an inner circumferential face of the intermediate sleeve and a slit is formed on an internally threaded part of the intermediate sleeve;

an external thread is formed on an outer circumferential face of the ancillary sleeve; one of an externally threaded part of the ancillary sleeve and the internally threaded part of the intermediate sleeve has a tapered shape; and

the internal thread of the intermediate sleeve inserted into the external sleeve engages with the external thread of said ancillary sleeve inserted into the external sleeve and the intermediate sleeve, the slit of the intermediate sleeve being expanded to press the internally threaded part against an inner circumferential face of the external sleeve to fix the intermediate sleeve to the external sleeve, thereby to fit the intermediate sleeve inside the external sleeve.

Claim 18. (Original) A composite holding device, comprising:

a holder body for holding a medium to serve a prescribed purpose; and

a cap for detachably covering the holder body,

wherein the cap comprises:

a casing for accommodating a plurality of holders, each holder for holding a medium to serve a purpose either different from or similar to that of said medium;

a supporting section for supporting said holders to be movable in an axial direction in the casing;

a feed mechanism, provided in the casing, for selectively advancing one of the plurality of holders; and

a manipulating mechanism for operating the feed mechanism, being adapted to project a tip of one of the plurality of holders out of a fore end opening at a tip of the casing and make usable the tip of one of the plurality of holders, wherein:

said casing comprises an external sleeve, an intermediate sleeve fitted inside the external sleeve with assistance of an ancillary sleeve and an elastic ring, and a nose rotatable in relation to the external sleeve and the intermediate sleeve;

an internal thread is formed on either one of the intermediate sleeve and the ancillary sleeve, and an external thread to engage with the internal thread is formed on the other one of the intermediate sleeve and the ancillary sleeve;

the intermediate sleeve and the elastic ring adjacent to the intermediate sleeve in the axial direction, are inserted into the external sleeve, the ancillary sleeve is inserted into the external sleeve from the elastic ring side, one of a part of the ancillary sleeve and a part of the intermediate sleeve penetrates the elastic ring, the threaded engagement of said external thread and internal thread with each other serves to combine the intermediate sleeve and the ancillary sleeve, and the elastic ring is compressed in the axial direction between the ancillary sleeve and the intermediate sleeve to be pressed against an inner circumferential face of the external sleeve, thereby to be fixed to the external sleeve, thereby resulting in the fitting of the intermediate sleeve inside the external sleeve.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) A composite holding device, comprising:

a holder body for holding a medium to serve a prescribed purpose; and

a cap for detachably covering the holder body,

wherein the cap comprises:

a casing for accommodating a plurality of holders, each holder for holding a medium to serve a purpose either different from or similar to that of said medium;

a supporting section for supporting said holders to be movable in an axial direction in the casing;

a feed mechanism, provided in the casing, for selectively advancing one of the plurality of holders; and

a manipulating mechanism for operating the feed mechanism, being adapted to project a tip of one of the plurality of holders out of a fore end opening at a tip of the casing and make usable the tip of one of the plurality of, wherein:

said casing comprises an external sleeve, an intermediate sleeve fitted inside the external sleeve with the assistance of an ancillary sleeve and a C-ring, and a nose rotatable in relation to the external sleeve and the intermediate sleeve;

an annular concave part is formed on an inner circumferential face of the external sleeve, and the C-ring is fitted into the annular concave part to project more in a direction of the internal diameter than the inner circumferential face of the external sleeve;

an internal thread is formed on either one of the intermediate sleeve and the ancillary sleeve, and an external thread to engage with the internal thread is formed on the other one of the intermediate sleeve and the ancillary sleeve;

a part of the intermediate sleeve is inserted into the external sleeve from one end of the external sleeve, and the other part of the intermediate sleeve not inserted into the external sleeve is brought into contact with the one end of the external sleeve; and

the ancillary sleeve is inserted into the external sleeve from the other end of the external sleeve, one of a part of the ancillary sleeve and a part of the intermediate sleeve penetrates the C-ring, the threaded engagement of said external thread with internal thread serves to combine the intermediate sleeve and the ancillary sleeve, and the ancillary sleeve comes into contact with the part of the C-ring projecting more than the inner circumferential face of the external sleeve from the other end side of the external sleeve, thereby resulting in the fitting of the intermediate sleeve inside the external sleeve.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) A holding device, comprising:

a casing for accommodating a plurality of holders for holding media;
a supporting section for supporting said holders to be movable;
means for selectively advancing one of the plurality of holders; and
means for operating the advancing means, being adapted to project a tip of one of the plurality of holders out of a fore end opening at a tip of the casing and make usable the tip of one of the plurality of holders,

wherein the supporting section is adapted to support a section of each holder such that the supported section is adapted to be rotatably supported in relation to the supporting section,

wherein said supporting section supports said section of said holder with a spherical bearing.

Claim 21. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said supported section comprises a holder receptacle comprising said spherical part.

Claim 22. (Previously presented) The device of claim 21, wherein said holder comprises a ballpoint stem and said holder receptacle.

Claim 23. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said supporting section comprises a slider comprising said concave part.

Claim 24. (Canceled).

Claim 25. (Currently amended) The device of claim 20 ~~24~~, wherein said spherical bearing comprises a spherical part formed on one of said supporting section and said supported section of said holders ~~holder~~ and a concave part that receives said spherical part formed on the other one of said supporting section and said supported section of said holders ~~holder~~.

Claim 26. (Currently amended) The device of claim 25, wherein said supported section ~~part of each said~~ holder comprises a holder receptacle comprising said spherical part.

Claim 27. (Previously presented) The device of claim 25, wherein said supporting section comprises a slider comprising said concave part.